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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/506,431

09/02/2004

Seung Myun Baek

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04/29/2008

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EXAMINER

TANG, KAREN C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2151

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/29/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/506,431	Applicant(s) BAEK ET AL.	
	Examiner KAREN C. TANG	Art Unit 2151	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 January 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3 and 4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3 and 4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

- A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/18/08 has been entered.
- Claims 1, 3 and 4 are presented for further examination.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3 and 4 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahmed et al hereinafter Ahmed (US 6,058,355) in view of Fairbairn (EP 0120640) and in further view of Cunningham et al hereinafter Cunningham (US 2002/0011923).

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1. Referring to Claim 1, Ahmed disclosed a method for identifying multiple home networks each having a plurality of home appliances connected to respective adapters and a network controller, and at least two network share one communication line, the method comprising steps of:

Setting a house code on each of the adapters to the home appliances for identifying home networks by: putting a house code setting program (must have the program installed in the NT in order to receive the house code) into operation in the network controller (NT, refer to Col 4, Lines 4), accessing a house code managing site on the Internet by the network controller (acquiring a house code, refer to Col 8, Lines 26-34 and Col 9, Lines 39); receiving (bi-directional communication, refer to Col 5, Lines 34-45, and Col 8, Lines 2-5), at the network controller, a house code (refer to Col 10, Lines 20-42) assigned from the house code managing site (UHMN, refer to Col 5, Lines 24), transferring the house code to a relevant adapter (UMSN, refer to Col 10, Lines 33-35), and the adapter storing the house code to a relevant memory region (refer to Col 11, Lines 20-24, UMSN will adapt the code, refer to Col 8, Lines 2-5, Col 11, Lines 20-24); receiving a packet including the house code on the communication line at the adapters (refer to Col 11, Lines 24-26),

Although Ahmed disclosed the invention substantially as claimed, Ahmed is silent regarding “comparing a preset house code to the house code included in the packet; and one of the adapters understanding that the packet is directed to the one of the adapters if the two house codes are in conformity as a result of the comparison, and transferring the packet to one of the home appliances connected thereto.”

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Fairbarin, in an analogous art disclosed, “comparing a preset house code to the house code included in the packet; and one of the adapters understanding that the packet is directed to the one of the adapters if the two house codes are in conformity as a result of the comparison, and transferring the packet to one of the home appliances connected thereto.” (refer to Page 6, Lines 10-27).

Hence, providing functionalities disclosed by Fairbarin, would be desirable for a user to implement in order to prevent the data signal to corrupt by the spurious other signals on the network. .

Therefore, at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system of Ahmed by including the features presented by Fairbarin.

Although Ahmed and Fairbarin disclosed the invention substantially as claimed, Ahmed and Fairbarin are silent regarding “providing a serial number of the adapter to the network controller;”

Cunningham disclosed “providing a serial number of the adapter to the network controller;” (refer to 0040)

Hence, providing functionalities disclosed by Cunningham, would be desirable for a user to implement in order to provide an user-friendly and flexible environment while providing a high degree of security

Therefore, at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the systems of Ahmed and Fairbarin by including the features presented by Cunningham.

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2. Referring to Claim 3, a method as claimed in claim 1, Ahmed disclosed “making access to a house code managing site on the Internet in the program includes the step of making an automatic access to the house code managing site once the information for the adapter is provided.”(refer to Col 7, Lines 16-17 and Col 8, Lines 6-14)

Although Ahmed and Fairbarin disclosed the invention substantially as claimed, Ahmed and Fairbarin are silent regarding “providing a serial number of the adapter to the network controller;”

Cunningham disclosed “providing a serial number of the adapter to the network controller;” (refer to 0040)

Hence, providing functionalities disclosed by Cunningham, would be desirable for a user to implement in order to provide an user-friendly and flexible environment while providing a high degree of security

Therefore, at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the systems of Ahmed and Fairbarin by including the features presented by Cunningham.

3. Referring to Claim 4, a method as claimed in claim 1, although Ahmed disclosed the invention substantially as claimed, Ahmed is silent in regarding "comprising the step of the adapters disregarding the received packet if the two house codes are not in conformity as the result of comparison.”

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Fairbarin, in an analogous art disclosed, "comprising the step of the adapters disregarding the received packet if the two house codes are not in conformity as the result of comparison." (refer to Page 5, Lines 24-27).

Hence, providing functionalities disclosed by Fairbarin, would be desirable for a user to implement in order to prevent the data signal to corrupt by the spurious other signals on the network. .

Therefore, at the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system of Ahmed by including the features presented by Fairbarin.

Conclusion

Examiner's Notes: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner. In the case of amending the claimed invention, Applicant is respectfully requested to indicate the portion(s) of the specification which dictate(s) the structure relied on for proper interpretation and also to verify and ascertain the metes and bounds of the claimed invention.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this Office action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karen C. Tang whose telephone number is (571)272-3116. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7 - 3.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on (571)272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/K. C. T./

Examiner, Art Unit 2151

/John Follansbee/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2151